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Cha et al.

(54) METHOD FOR CONVERTING AND PRODUCING CARBONATE MINERALS FROM CARBON DIOXIDE USING RECOMBINANT BIOCATALYST

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CPC ... *C12P 9/00* (2013.01); *C12N 9/88* (2013.01); *C12P 3/00* (2013.01)

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See application file for complete search history.

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(45) **Date of Patent:**

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(57) ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a technique for capturing carbon dioxide and converting the carbon dioxide to carbonate minerals using a recombinant whole cell biocatalyst expressing carbonic anhydrase. More particularly, the present invention relates to a composition for capturing carbon dioxide and a method for capturing carbon dioxide using the composition, which composition comprises a whole cell of a transformant formed with a vector including a nucleic acid encoding a recombinant carbonic anhydrase; a cell lysate or its fraction of the whole cell; or a recombinant carbonic anhydrase isolated from the whole cell. Further, the present invention relates to a composition and method for converting the carbon dioxide to carbonate minerals using the carbon dioxide capturing composition.

14 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets (11 of 13 Drawing Sheet(s) Filed in Color)

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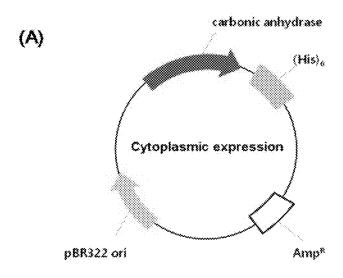
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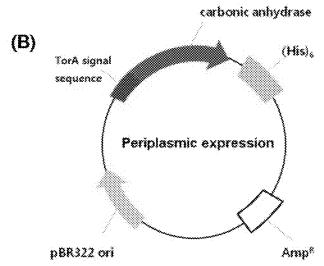
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Figure 1

Jun. 9, 2015





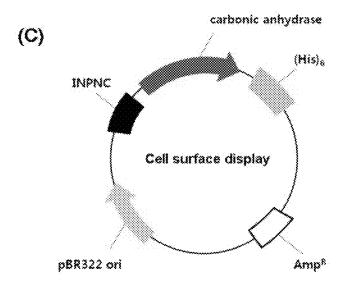


Figure 2

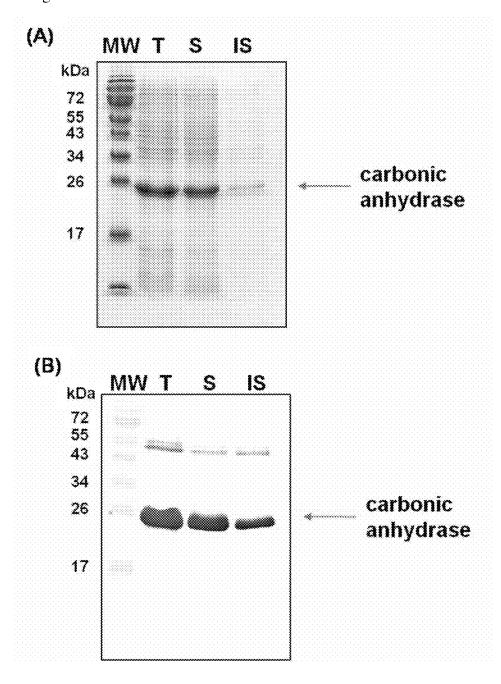


Figure 3

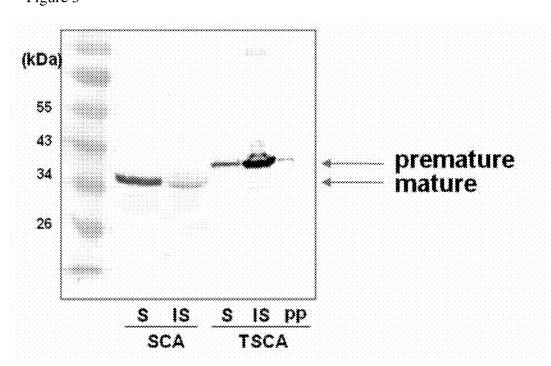


Figure 4

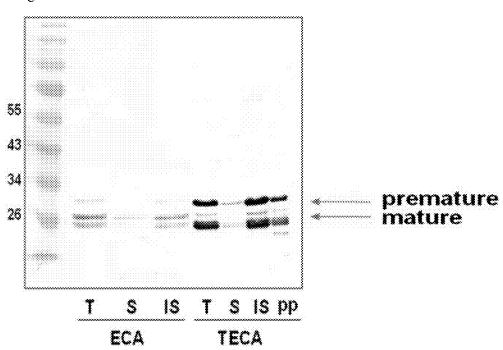


Figure 5

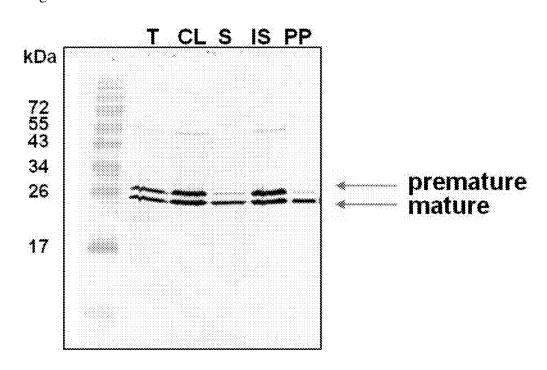


Figure 6

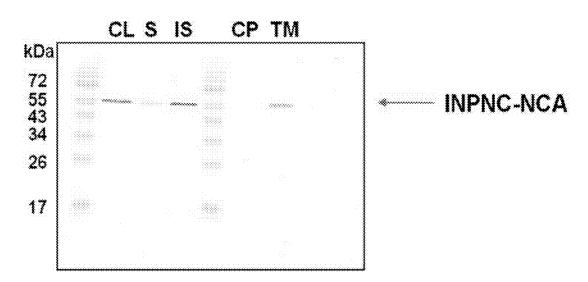
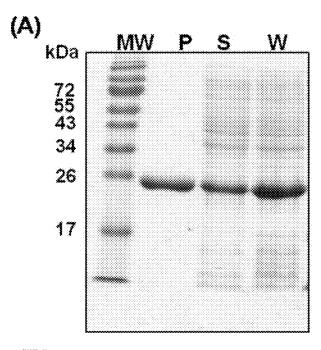
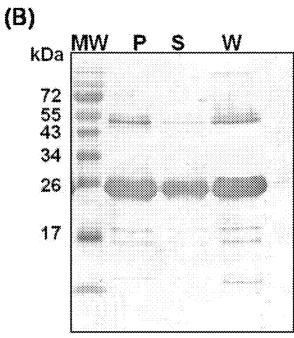


Figure 7





Time (s)

10

0

Figure 8

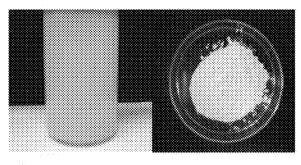
9
85
NCA
S
8
8
7
BCA
7
65

20

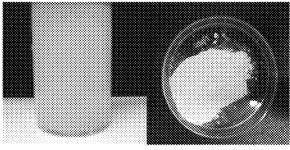
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Time(s)	0.7	0.98	2.25	2.75
Activity (U/mg)	3090	2184	920	728

30

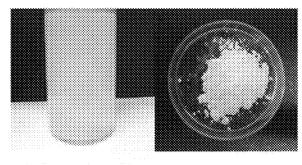
Figure 9



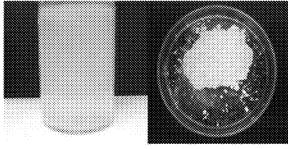
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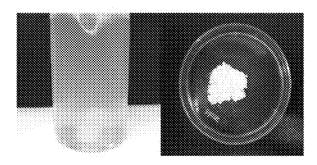
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<SOLUBLE FRACTION>



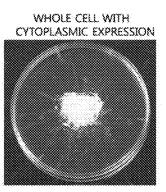
<WHOLE CELL>



< BSA >

Figure 10

WHOLE CELL WITH NEGATIVE CONTROL



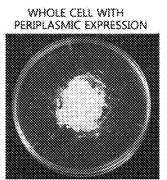


Figure 11

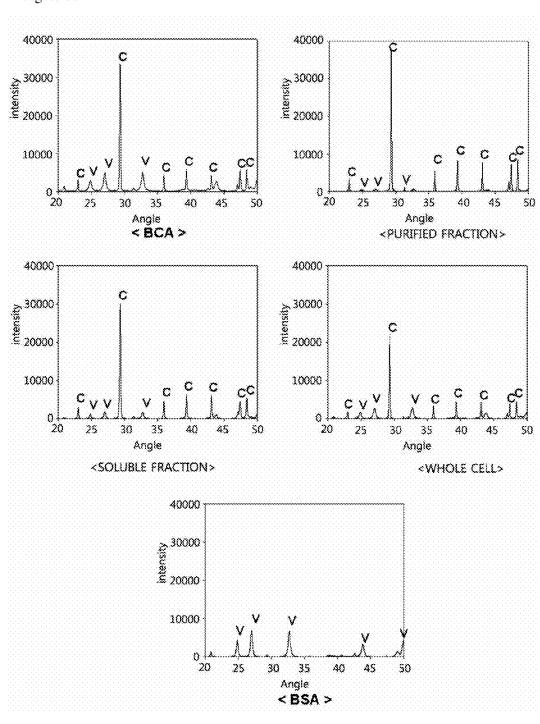


Figure 12

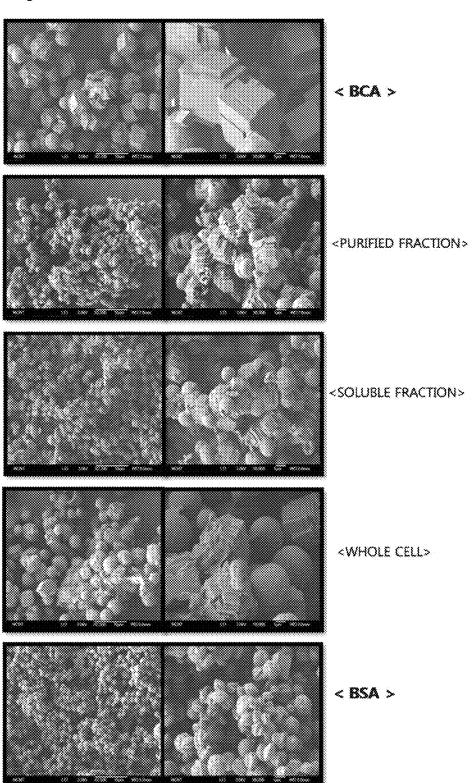
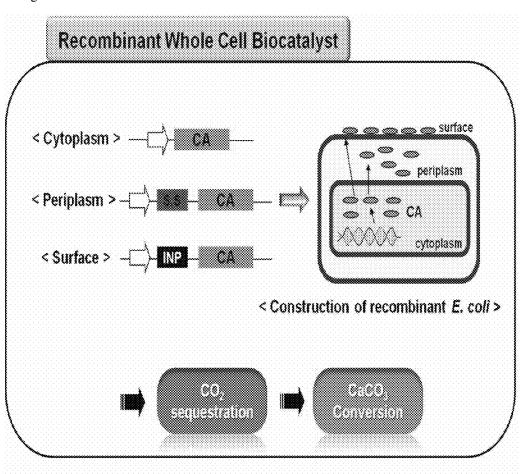


Figure 13



METHOD FOR CONVERTING AND PRODUCING CARBONATE MINERALS FROM CARBON DIOXIDE USING RECOMBINANT BIOCATALYST

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a technique for capturing carbon dioxide and converting the carbon dioxide to carbonate minerals using a recombinant whole cell biocatalyst expressing carbonic anhydrase. More particularly, the present invention relates to a composition for capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and a method for capturing carbon dioxide using the composition, which comprises: a recombinant whole cell transformed with a vector containing a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase to express a carbonic anhydrase in cytoplasm, periplasmic space, or cell surface; a cell lysate or its fraction of the whole cell; or a recombinant carbonic anhydrase isolated from the whole cell. Further, the present invention relates to a composition and method for converting the carbon dioxide to carbonate minerals using the composition for capturing carbon dioxide.

BACKGROUND ART

There have been increasing worldwide attempts to reduce 25 the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere in association with the global warming issue. The establishment of techniques for reducing carbon dioxide is necessary in consideration of the current situation that the use of fossil energy is going to be inevitable in near future in spite of the 30 ongoing development of renewable energy. A variety of chemical and physical methods for absorption of carbon dioxide have been developed and mostly encounter problems related to high heat recovery, corrosion, additional storage space, and so forth. Recently, attractions have been drawn by 35 a method for a biological capture of carbon dioxide (CO₂) with an enzyme involved in biological CO2 fixation. Such a method for biological CO₂ capture is of great benefit in the aspects of eco-friendliness, rapid reaction, and above all, conversion of carbon dioxide to the final compound, more 40 advantageous over the conventional chemical and physical methods.

Carbonic anhydrase is a Zn-containing metalloenzyme that is known to exist in tissues of mammals, plants, or green algae and catalyze the hydration of carbon dioxide. Up to date, the 45 carbonic anhydrase has been classified into five categories according to sequence similarity: α , β , γ , δ , and ϵ . For example, α -carbonic anhydrase is the type to be found in most of mammals, and part of bacteria and green algae; β -carbonic anhydrase is present in most of prokaryotes and plants; γ -carbonic anhydrase is found in methane-producing bacteria, *Methanosarcina thermophilia*; δ -carbonic anhydrase is a recently reported carbonic anhydrase found in diatoms; and ϵ -carbonic anhydrase is present in part of chemolithotrophs.

Carbon dioxide in atmosphere is dissolved in water to form 55 a carbonate according to the following reactions. The carbonate exists in the form of carbonate ion (CO₃²⁻), which reacts with a metal cation to form a precipitate.

$$CO_2(g) \rightarrow CO_2(aq)$$

 $CO_2(aq) + H_2O \rightarrow H_2CO_3$
 $H_2CO_3 \rightarrow H^+ + HCO_3^-$
 $HCO_3^- \rightarrow H^+ + CO_3^{2-}$
 $CO_3^{2-} + Ca^{2+} \rightarrow CaCO_3$

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In the mechanism, the hydration reaction of carbon dioxide is the rate-determining step and accelerated in the presence of a carbonic anhydrase. Further, the final product obtained after catalyzing the capture of carbon dioxide is ready to react with different metal cations, such as calcium ion (Ca^{2+}) , manganese ion (Mn^{2+}) , iron ion (Fe^{2+}) , etc., to form different carbonates, such as calcium carbonate $(CaCO_3)$, manganese carbonate $(MnCO_3)$, iron carbonate $(FeCO_3)$, etc. These carbonates can be used in various industrial applications for different use purposes.

The presence of a carbonic anhydrase can accelerate the precipitation as well as the catalytic hydration of carbon dioxide. This is because the carbonic anhydrase catalyzes the hydration to promote the rate of forming carbonate ions, resulting in the faster precipitation of the carbonate.

Despite the catalytic function of carbonic anhydrase, the extraction of carbonic anhydrase from the nature for industrial use purposes has been limited due to the expense of enzyme purification and additional enzyme fixation. Bovine carbonic anhydrase extracted from bovine serum has been widely used, but its practical utilization is limited because it costs high as much as about three thousand dollars per gram. The techniques for extraction and purification of carbonic anhydrase from organisms have been developed incompletely, and the genetically recombinant carbonic anhydrase has been studied only for the biochemical research on enzymes. However, there have ever been yet made attempts neither to convert carbon dioxide to carbonates using a recombinant carbonic anhydrase which can be produced in large scale, nor to utilize a recombinant whole cell as a catalyst.

In an attempt to develop a technique for conversion of carbon dioxide to carbonates using a carbonic anhydrase with high efficiency at low cost, the inventors of the present invention have contrived a recombinant carbonic anhydrase available in practical use and a recombinant whole cell biocatalyst using transformant cells expressing the recombinant carbonic anhydrase in large scale. To complete the present invention, the inventors prepared a vector including a carbonic anhydrase gene and successfully expressed the vector in *Escherichia coli* in large scale. They also demonstrated that both the recombinant carbonic anhydrase produced from the vector and the whole cell biocatalyst expressing a carbonic anhydrase had high activity on the hydration of carbon dioxide, and the use of recombinant carbonic anhydrase contributed to effective conversion of carbon dioxide to carbonate.

DISCLOSURE

Technical Problem

It is an object of the present invention to provide a composition for capturing carbon dioxide that comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: a whole cell of a transformant formed with a vector including a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase; a cell lysate or its fraction of the whole cell; and a carbonic anhydrase isolated from the whole cell.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for capturing carbon dioxide using the composition for capturing carbon dioxide.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a composition for converting carbon dioxide to a carbonate or a bicarbonate that comprises the ${\rm CO_2}$ capturing composition and a metal cation.

It is still further another object of the present invention to provide a method for converting carbon dioxide to a carbonate or a bicarbonate using the composition.

Technical Solution

In one preferred embodiment of the present invention to achieve the above objects, the present invention is directed to a composition for capturing carbon dioxide that comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: a whole cell of a transformant formed with a vector including a nucleic acid encoding a recombinant carbonic anhydrase; a cell lysate or its fraction of the whole cell; or a carbonic anhydrase isolated from the whole cell.

The term "carbonic anhydrase (CA)" as used herein refers to a Zn-containing metallic enzyme that catalyzes the hydration of carbon dioxide ($\mathrm{CO_2(aq)}+\mathrm{H_2O}\rightarrow\mathrm{H^+}+\mathrm{HCO_3^-}$). The bovine carbonic anhydrase derived from bovine serum as a conventional carbonic anhydrase for industrial use has been limited in its practical utilization due to the difficulty of 20 purification and high expense of production. However, the present invention provides a carbonic anhydrase expressed in large scale by genetic recombination and useful as a whole cell catalyst to capture carbon dioxide and prepare carbonates from carbon dioxide with ease at low cost, with high catalytic 25 activity equivalent to that of the conventional enzyme from bovine serum.

The present invention features a carbonic anhydrase expressed by genetic recombination. The carbonic anhydrase may be derived from any organism as long as it has a catalytic 30 function on the hydration of carbon dioxide. For example, the carbonic anhydrase of the present invention can be derived from prokaryotes or eukaryotes and, more specifically from, if not limited to, gram-positive bacteria, gram-negative bacteria, bacteria, fungi, yeasts, plants, animals, or human.

Preferably, the carbonic anhydrase of the present invention may be derived from *Synechocystis* PCC6803, *Escherichia coli*, or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and expressed by genetic recombination. The growth of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is accelerated the presence of carbon dioxide. The carbonic 40 anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* exists as a monomer and has a high k_{cal}/K_M value approximating 46% with respect to human carbonic anhydrase II (HCA II) which is known to have the highest k_{cal}/K_M value among the existing carbonic anhydrases, so that it can be readily secreted from the periplasmic space or cell surface to desirably enhance the catalytic efficiency. This example is given only to exemplify the present invention and not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

Preferably, the carbonic anhydrase of the present invention 50 may be used in the form of at least one selected from the group consisting of: a whole cell of a transformant formed with a vector including a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase; a cell lysate or its fraction of the whole cell; and a carbonic anhydrase isolated from the whole cell. The fraction 55 may include a soluble fraction, an insoluble fraction, a cytoplasmic fraction, a periplasmic fraction, or a cell membrane fraction of the cell lysate.

Preferably, the transformant cell may be expressed in cytoplasm, periplasmic space, or cell surface.

For this, as a preferred example, the carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* may be a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, which is expressed in cytoplasm. The nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 may have, 65 if not specifically limited to, a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

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In the present invention, the carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* may also be a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 and produced in the periplasmic space, for the protein is formed by insertion of TorA as a signal sequence for inducing protein expression in *Escherichia coli* cytoplasm into the N-terminal domain of SEQ ID NO: 1. The nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 may have, if not specifically limited to, a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

In the present invention, the carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* may also be a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 and produced in the cell surface, for the protein is formed by insertion of an ice nucleation protein sequence as a surface anchoring motif for secretion in *Escherichia coli* cell surface into the N-terminal domain of SEQ ID NO: 1. The nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 may have, if not specifically limited to, a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

In the present invention, the carbonic anhydrase from *Synechocystis* may be a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, which protein is produced in the cytoplasm. The nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 may have, if not specifically limited to, a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

In the present invention, the carbonic anhydrase may also be a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 and produced in the periplasmic space, for the protein is formed by insertion of TorA as a signal sequence for protein expression in the *Escherichia coli* periplasmic space into the N-terminal domain of SEQ ID NO: 7. The nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 may have, if not specifically limited to, a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

In the present invention, the carbonic anhydrase from *Escherichia coli* may be a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 and produced in the cytoplasm. The nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 may have, if not specifically limited to, a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

In the present invention, the carbonic anhydrase may also be a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and produced in the periplasmic space, for the protein is formed by insertion of TorA as a signal sequence for protein expression in the *Escherichia coli* periplasmic space into the N-terminal domain of SEQ ID NO: 11. The nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 may have, if not specifically limited to, a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14.

The genetic recombination process for producing the biocatalyst of the present invention includes the following steps.

The first step is preparing a vector including a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase.

The nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase may be preferably derived from, for example, *Neisseria gonor-rhoeae, Synechocystis*, or *Escherichia coli*, and appropriately modified by a known method to be expressed in a desired region of the host cell, such as cytoplasm, periplasmic space, or cell surface. More specifically, the nucleic acid may encode an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 11, or SEQ ID NO: 13, and have a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, or SEQ ID NO: 14.

The vector for inserting the nucleic acid may be a recombinant vector in different forms of plasmid, virus, cosmid. The term "recombinant vector" as used herein refers to a double-stranded DNA fraction as a carrier with a foreign DNA fraction. The term "foreign DNA" as used herein refers to a DNA originated from a foreign species, or otherwise, a substantially modified form of the original DNA fraction. The foreign gene encodes a polypeptide with a specific nucleic acid to be transcribed. According to the object of the present invention, the foreign DNA means a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase.

To enhance the expression level of a transformed gene in a host cell, the recombinant vector has the target gene operatively linked to a transcription/decoding/expression control sequence in the selected host cell. The recombinant vector is a gene construct which contains a necessary control factor operatively linked to express an inserted gene fraction in the target cell. The standard recombinant DNA technique is used to produce such a gene construct. The recombinant vector is 20 not specifically limited as long as it can express a target gene and produce a target protein in all kinds of host cells such as prokaryotes or eukaryotes. The preferred recombinant vector has a promoter excellent in activity and expression ability and capable of large-scale expression of a foreign protein similar 25 to the natural form. Preferably, the recombinant vector may include at least a promoter, an initiation codon, a gene for encoding a target protein, a termination codon, and a terminator. In addition, the recombinant vector may appropriately include a DNA for encoding a signal peptide, an enhancer 30 sequence, non-coding regions for the 5' and 3 termini of a target gene, a selectable marker region, or a replicable unit.

In the specified examples of the present invention, a vector was prepared so that a nucleic acid encoding carbonic anhydrase derived from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Synechocystis*, or 35 *Escherichia coli* was inserted into a vector pET22b(+) or pTrcHis, which vector had a cleavage map of FIG. 1.

The second step is preparing a transformant cell using the vector including a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase.

The method for preparing a transformant by introducing a recombinant vector into a host cell may a well-known method to introduce a nucleic acid into a cell, which method may include, if not specifically limited to, calcium phosphate- or calcium chloride/rubidium chloride-mediated transformation, electroporation, electroinjection, heat shock transformation, chemical transformation using chemicals such as PEG, gene gun transformation, retroviral infection, microinjection, DEAE-dxtran transformation, cationic liposome transformation, or the like.

The host cell to be transformed with the recombinant vector of the present invention may be any prokaryote or eukaryote and required to have a high introduction efficiency of DNA and a high expression efficiency of the introduced DNA. The specific examples of the host cell may include 55 known prokaryote or eukaryote cells, such as *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, Fungi, or yeasts; insect cells such as *Spodoptera Frugiperda* (SF9); animal cells, such as CHO, COS 1, COS 7, BSC 1, BSC 40, BMT 10, etc. Among these, *Escherichia coli* is preferred.

In the specified examples of the present invention, the vector, that is, an expression vector where a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase was inserted in pET22b(+) or pTrcHis was introduced into *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) through heat shock transformation at 42° C. for 2 minutes to 65 prepare a transformant for large-scale production of carbonic anhydrase.

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The third step is culturing the transformant to induce expression of carbonic anhydrase and accumulate the produced carbonic anhydrase.

The cultivation of the transformant expressing the recombinant vector in a nutrient medium can produce and isolate a useful protein in large scale. The medium and culture conditions are properly determined as accepted in the related art depending on to the type of the host cell. Such conditions as temperature, pH value of the medium, and culture time can be properly controlled to favor the growth of the cell and the large-scale production of the protein during the cultivation. IPTG (isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside) is used as an expression-inducing factor to induce protein expression, and the induction time is controlled to maximize the yield of the protein.

In the specified examples of the present invention, the transformed *Escherichia coli* cells were cultured in a LB medium supplemented with ampicillin. When the absorbance $({\rm OD}_{600})$ of the culture sample at 600 nm reached 0.6 to 0.8, IPTG as a substance for inducing protein expression and ZnSo₄ for introducing zinc (Zn) were added to the culture sample, which were then cultured at 25° C. for more 25 hours. But, these culture conditions can be properly modified by those skilled in the art.

To investigate the expression of the carbonic anhydrase according to the above-described method, the transformant cell thus harvested is suspended with an aqueous buffer solution, crushed with a ultrasonic pulverizer and then partly separated into a soluble fraction and an insoluble fraction on a typical SDS-PAGE.

The transformant with the enzyme expressed is useful as a whole cell biocatalyst. More preferably, at least one selected from the group consisting of the transformant (whole cell), the lysate or its fraction of the transformant cell, and a carbonic anhydrase isolated from the transformant cell may be used as a biocatalyst.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the recombinant carbonic anhydrase may be used as a whole cell biocatalyst produced in cytoplasm, periplasmic space, or cell surface without a process for separation and purification of carbonic anhydrase.

In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the transformant cell expressing a carbonic anhydrase may be destroyed by different physical or chemical means, such as repetitive freeze-thawing, ultrasonic waves, mechanical destruction, or cell-degrading agents. The cell lysate containing the destroyed cells may be directly used as a biocatalyst.

In accordance with still another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the cell lysate containing the destroyed cells may be separated into a soluble fraction and an insoluble fraction, both of which are useful as a biocatalyst. Further, a cytoplasm fraction, a periplasmic fraction, or a cell membrane fraction may also be used as a biocatalyst.

In accordance with still another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the carbonic anhydrase produced in the transformant cell may be used as a biocatalyst after isolation and purification. The carbonic anhydrase thus produced can be isolated and purified by known biochemical isolation techniques after pulverization of the transformant cell. For example, the isolation and purification methods may include, if not specifically limited to, electrophoresis, centrifugal separation, gel filtration, precipitation, dialysis, chromatography (ion-exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography, immune-affinity chromatography, reverse HPLC, gel permeation HPLC, etc.), isoelectric focusing, or various modifications or combinations of these methods.

In a specified example of the present invention, to obtain a carbonic anhydrase derived from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the transformant cells harvested were destroyed with an ultrasonic pulverizer, and the soluble fraction of the cell lysate was subjected to affinity chromatography using a column filled 5 with a nickel resin to isolate and purify a desired carbonic anhydrase. The purified protein was removed of the salt (imidazole) remaining in the aqueous protein solution through dialysis using tris-sulfate (pH 7.6). The purification of the target carbonic anhydrase was investigated using SDS-PAGE 10 and Western Blotting (See. FIG. 7).

In another specified example of the present invention, the purified enzyme was analyzed in regard to activity on hydration of carbon dioxide. Then, the whole cell and the soluble fraction obtained by destruction of the whole cell with an 15 ultrasonic pulverizer were analyzed in regard to activity on hydration of carbon dioxide. The positive control was commercial bovine carbonic anhydrase extracted from bovine serum, and the negative control was bovine serum albumin inactive on the hydration of carbon dioxide. The results 20 showed that all of the transformed whole cell, its soluble fraction, and the carbonic anhydrase isolated from the soluble fraction had such a high activity of capturing carbon dioxide as comparable to the positive control (See. FIG. 8).

In accordance with further another embodiment of the 25 present invention, there is provided a method for capturing carbon dioxide using the composition for carbon dioxide.

More specifically, the present invention is directed to a method for capturing carbon dioxide that comprises: preparing the composition for capturing carbon dioxide; and feeding carbon dioxide into the composition for capturing carbon dioxide.

The preparation of the composition for capturing carbon dioxide may include: (1) preparing a vector including a nucleic acid encoding a carbonic anhydrase; (2) preparing a 35 transformant cell formed with the vector; (3) culturing the transformant cell to induce expression of carbonic anhydrase and accumulate the carbonic anhydrase; and (4) preparing a composition including at least one selected from the group consisting of the transformant cell, a cell lysate or its fraction 40 of the transformant cell, and the carbonic anhydrase isolated from the transformant cell.

The method of feeding carbon dioxide into the composition for capturing carbon dioxide may include, if not specifically limited to, feeding a source of carbon dioxide that contains a large amount of carbon dioxide and needs to be removed of carbon dioxide, such as in the form of waste water or flue gas.

After capturing carbon dioxide with the composition for capturing carbon dioxide according to the present invention, 50 a source of metal cation is added to the composition to convert the captured carbon dioxide to a carbonate/bicarbonate precipitate, which is useful for industrial use purpose in various applications.

In accordance with still another embodiment of the present 55 invention, there is provided a composition for converting carbon dioxide to a carbonate or a bicarbonate that comprises the composition for capturing carbon dioxide, and a metal action

According to the present invention, there is also provided a 60 method for converting carbon dioxide to a carbonate or a bicarbonate using the composition.

Preferably, the present invention is directed to a method for converting carbon dioxide to a carbonate or a bicarbonate that includes: preparing the composition for capturing carbon 65 dioxide; and feeding a metal cation and carbon dioxide into the composition for capturing carbon dioxide.

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The term "carbonate" or "carbonate precipitate" as used herein refers to an inorganic component containing a carbonate group (—CO₃). This term may include both a mixture of carbonate and bicarbonate, and a species containing a carbonate ion alone. The term "bicarbonate" or "bicarbonate precipitate" as used herein refers to an inorganic component containing a bicarbonate group (—HCO₃). This term may include both a mixture of carbonate and bicarbonate, and a species containing a bicarbonate ion alone.

The source of metal ion that reacts with carbon dioxide to form a carbonate or a bicarbonate is not specifically limited as long as it contains a metal ion, and can be properly chosen according to its use. The preferred source of metal ion may react with the source of carbonate to produce a carbonate in a crystal form of calcite, aragonite or vaterite, or in an amorphous crystal form.

For example, the source of metal ion may be Na⁺, Ca²⁺, Fe²⁺, Mn²⁺, Sr²⁺, Ca²⁺, Ba²⁺, Zn²⁺, or Pb²⁺, or its nitrate, hydrochloride, hydrate or alkaline solution.

The carbonate precipitate prepared with the source of metal ion may include, if not specifically limited to, sodium carbonate, calcium carbonate, iron carbonate, manganese carbonate, strontium carbonate, barium carbonate, zinc carbonate, or lead carbonate.

In the step of feeding a metal cation and carbon dioxide into the composition for capturing carbon dioxide according to the present invention, the metal cation and the carbon dioxide may be supplied in sequence or simultaneously. For example, the sequential feeding is conducted in the order of metal cation and carbon dioxide, or in the order of carbon dioxide and metal cation; otherwise, the simultaneous feeding of the metal cation and the carbon dioxide is conducted.

In a specified example of the present invention, calcium ions were fed into the carbon dioxide captured with the purified carbonic anhydrase of the present invention, the soluble fraction, and the whole cell. Then, the production of calcium carbonate was investigated with an X-ray diffractometer (XRD) and a scanning electron microscope (SEM) (See. FIGS. 11 and 12).

The carbonate or bicarbonate produced by reaction between carbon dioxide and a metal cation is useful in the industrial applications. For example, the carbonate or bicarbonate may be used as an inorganic filler in a wide range of industrial applications, such as rubber, plastic, paper, paint, coating, adhesive, cosmetics, medicine and medical supplies, and so forth.

Calcium carbonate is one of the minerals present in most quantity in the nature. Particularly, the calcium carbonate precipitate is an inorganic powder with an adequate specific gravity that is insoluble in pure water and characterized by high whiteness and non-inflammability, so that it can be used as an inorganic filler in a wide range of industrial applications. When used as a raw material, such as a filler for rubber, plastic, or paint, or a pigment for paper making, the aragonitetype calcium carbonate precipitate, which is of a needle-like shape with a considerably high aspect ratio (the ratio of crystal length to size), can enhance strength and whiteness and make opacity controllable due to its complicated needle-like surface structure, so that it is useful as an alternative as a novel functional inorganic powder capable of providing mechanical and optical functions. In this manner, the present invention can provide usefulness in producing calcium carbonate.

Advantageous Effects

The present invention is economically beneficial in that carbon dioxide can be captured using a supernatant liquid of

the cell lysate or a transformant cell expressing carbonic anhydrase as a whole cell biocatalyst without a need of separately extracting the enzyme. Further, the final product is converted to a high value-added carbonate and thus can be utilized for various use purposes in the industrial applications, such as of paint, plastic, rubber, paper making, coating, adhesive, cosmetics, medicine and medical supplies, and so forth.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The file of this patent contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

FIG. 1 shows cleavage maps of expression vectors containing a carbonic anhydrase gene: (A) a vector for cytoplasmic expression; (B) a vector for periplasmic expression; and (C) a vector for cell surface expression.

FIG. 2 presents the results of (A) SDS-PAGE analysis and (B) Western Blot analysis for a whole cell fraction (T), a soluble fraction (S), and an insoluble fraction (IS), when a carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is expressed in cytoplasm.

FIG. 3 presents the results of a Western Blot analysis for a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), and a periplasmic fraction (PP), when a carbonic anhydrase from *Synechocystis* is expressed in cytoplasm (SCA) and periplasmic space (TSCA).

FIG. 4 presents the results of a Western Blot analysis for a whole cell fraction (T), a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), and a periplasmic fraction (PP) when a carbonic anhydrase from *Escherichia coli* is expressed in cytoplasm (ECA) and periplasmic space (TECA).

FIG. 5 presents the results of a Western Blot analysis for a whole cell fraction (T), a cell lysate (CL), a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), and a periplasmic fraction (PP), when a carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonor-rhoeae* is expressed in periplasmic space.

FIG. 6 presents the results of a Western Blot analysis for a cell lysate (CL), a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), a cytoplasmic fraction (CP), and a cell membrane fraction (TM), when a carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is expressed in cell surface.

FIG. 7 presents the results of (A) SDS-PAGE analysis and (B) Western Blot analysis for a whole cell (W), a soluble fraction (S) and a purified fraction (P) of a transformant, where a carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is expressed in cytoplasm.

FIG. 8 presents the measurement results of the catalytic activity on hydration of carbon dioxide for a whole cell (W), a soluble fraction (S) and a purified fraction (NCA) of a transformant in which a carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is expressed in cytoplasm. Here, BSA is bovine 55 serum albumin as a negative control, and BCA is bovine carbonic anhydrase as a positive control.

FIG. 9 presents pictures showing the precipitate shape and dried calcium carbonate powder two minutes after the initial reaction for forming a calcium carbonate precipitate using a 60 whole cell, a soluble fraction and a purified fraction of a transformant in which a carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is expressed in cytoplasm, a positive control (BSA), and a negative control (BCA).

FIG. 10 presents pictures showing the dried calcium car- 65 bonate powder one minute after the initial reaction for forming a calcium carbonate precipitate using a whole cell in

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which a carbonic anhydrase from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is expressed in cytoplasm or periplasmic space.

FIG. 11 shows the results of X-ray diffraction on each calcium carbonate powder of FIG. 9 to identify the crystal type.

FIG. 12 shows scanning electron microscope (SEM) pictures of each calcium carbonate powder of FIG. 9 to identify the crystal shape.

FIG. 13 is a mimetic diagram showing the process of capturing carbon dioxide and converting it to a carbonate using a
recombinant whole cell biocatalyst expressing a recombinant
carbonic anhydrase in cytoplasm, periplasmic space, or cell
surface of a transformant cell.

MODE FOR INVENTION

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail with reference to examples, which are given only to exemplify the present invention and not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

Example 1

Preparation of Carbonic Anhydrase Expression Vector

1-1. Preparation of Vector for Cytoplasmic Expression

A carbonic anhydrase gene of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* was amplified using two primers of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* genome DNA (i.e., forward primer: 5'-CATATGCACG-GCAATCACACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 15), and backward primer: 5'-AAGCTTTTCAATAACTACACGTGCATT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 16)), a Taq DNA polymerase, a dNTP mixed solution, and a PCR buffer by carrying out 30 cycles of PCR (30-sec denaturation at 95° C., 30-sec coupling at 55° C. and one-minute polymerization reaction at 72° C.) and then cooling down to 4° C. The carbonic anhydrase gene thus amplified was introduced into a pET-22b(+) vector using a NdeI/XhoI restriction enzyme to prepare a cytoplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived from *Neisseria gonor-thoeae*

A carbonic anhydrase gene of Synechocystis was amplified using two primers of a Synechocystis genome DNA (i.e., primer: 5'-CATATGGCCGAAGTTTCATforward TGATATCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 17), and backward primer: 5'-CAAGCTTACGGGAGCCTCGATAAATGCGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 18)), a Tag DNA polymerase, a dNTP mixed solution, and a PCR buffer by carrying out 30 cycles of PCR (30-sec denaturation at 95° C., 30-sec coupling at 55° C. and oneminute polymerization reaction at 72° C.) and then cooling down to 4° C. The carbonic anhydrase gene thus amplified was introduced into a TorA-GFP-removed pTTG vector (Korean Patent Application No. 2005-0099758) using a Ndel/ HindIII restriction enzyme to prepare a cytoplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived from Synechocystis.

A carbonic anhydrase gene of *Escherichia coli* was amplified using two primers of a *Escherichia coli* genome DNA (i.e., forward primer: 5'-CATATGAAAGAGATTATTGATG-GATTCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 19), and backward primer: 5'-CAAGCTTCGCTGCGGTCGGTTGGCGTAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)), a Taq DNA polymerase, a dNTP mixed solution, and a PCR buffer by carrying out 30 cycles of PCR (30-sec denaturation at 95° C., 30-sec coupling at 55° C. and one-minute polymerization reaction at 72° C.) and then cooling down to 4° C. The carbonic anhydrase gene thus amplified was introduced into a TorA-GFP-removed pTTG vector using

a NdeI/HindIII restriction enzyme to prepare a cytoplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived from Escherichia coli.

1-2. Preparation of Vector for Periplasmic Expression

A carbonic anhydrase gene of Neisseria gonorrhoeae was amplified using two primers of a Neisseria gonorrhoeae genome DNA (i.e., forward primer: 5'-CCATGGGACACG-GCAATCACACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21), and backward 5'-AAGCTTTTCAATAACTACACGTGCATT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 16)), a Taq DNA polymerase, a dNTP mixed solution, and a PCR buffer by carrying out 30 cycles of PCR (30-sec denaturation at 95° C., 30-sec coupling at 55° C. and one-minute polymerization reaction at 72° C.) and then cooling down to 4° C. The carbonic anhydrase gene thus amplified was introduced into a pET-22b(+) vector using a NdeI/XhoI restriction enzyme to prepare a periplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived from Neisseria gonor-

A carbonic anhydrase gene of Synechocystis was amplified using two primers of a Synechocystis genome DNA (i.e., primer: 5'-CCATGGGAGCCGAAGTTTCAT- 20 TGATATCĈ-3' (SEQ ID NO: 22), and backward primer: 5'-CAAGCTTACGGGAGCCTCGATAAATGCGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 18)), a Taq DNA polymerase, a dNTP mixed solution, and a PCR buffer by carrying out 30 cycles of PCR (30-sec denaturation at 95° C., 30-sec coupling at 55° C. and oneminute polymerization reaction at 72° C.) and then cooling down to 4° C. The carbonic anhydrase gene thus amplified was introduced into a GFT-removed pTTG vector (Korean Patent Application No. 2005-0099758, filed on Oct. 21, 2005) using a NcoI/HindIII restriction enzyme to prepare a periplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived from Synechocystis.

A carbonic anhydrase gene of Escherichia coli was amplified using two primers of a Escherichia coli genome DNA forward primer: 5'-CCATGGGAAAAGATTAT-TGATGGATTC-3^î (SEQ ID NO: 23), and backward primer: 35 5'-CAAGCTTCGCTGCGGTCGGTTGGCGTAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)), a Taq DNA polymerase, a dNTP mixed solution, and a PCR buffer by carrying out 30 cycles of PCR (30-sec denaturation at 95° C., 30-sec coupling at 55° C. and oneminute polymerization reaction at 72° C.) and then cooling 40 down to 4° C. The carbonic anhydrase gene thus amplified was introduced into a TorA-GFP-removed pTTG vector using a NcoI/HindIII restriction enzyme to prepare a periplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived from Escherichia coli.

1-3. Preparation of Vector for Cell Surface Expression

A carbonic anhydrase gene of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* was amplified using two primers of a Neisseria gonorrhoeae genome DNA (i.e., forward primer: 5'-AGATCTCACG-GCAATCACACCCATTGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 24), and backward primer: 5'-AAGCTTTCAGTGGTGGTGGTG-50 GTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 25)), a Taq DNA polymerase, a dNTP mixed solution, and a PCR buffer by carrying out 30 cycles of PCR (30-sec denaturation at 95° C., 30-sec coupling at 55° C. and one-minute polymerization reaction at 72° C.) and then cooling down to 4° C. The carbonic anhydrase gene thus 55 amplified was introduced into a pINPNC-OPH vector (Li L, Kang D G, Cha H J. 2004, Biotechnol Bioeng 85:214-221) using a BglII/HindIII restriction enzyme to prepare a cell surface expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived from Neisseria gonorrhoeae.

Example 2

Preparation of Transformant Including Cytoplasmic, Periplasmic, or Cell Surface Expression Vector

Each of the cytoplasmic expression vector, the periplasmic expression vector, and the cell surface expression vector pro12

duced in Examples 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3, respectively, was introduced into Escherichia coli BL21(DE3) by heat shock transformation at 42° C. for 2 minutes, to prepare a transformant including each vector and expressing a recombinant carbonic anhydrase. Each of the vector-inserted transformants was sorted out in an LB medium supplemented with ampicillin.

Example 3

Protein Expression and Preparation of Whole Cell Biocatalyst Using Each Transformant

Each transformant prepared in Example 2 was cultured in a general LB medium (37° C.) supplemented with 50 μg/mL of ampicillin. When the absorbance (OD₆₀₀) of the culture sample reached 0.6 to 0.8, an expression-inducing factor, IPTG (isopropyl-D-thiogalactopyranoside), was added to induce protein expression. The cultured cell was then cultured at 25° C. for 20 more hours and then subjected to centrifugal separation at 4,000 rpm for 10 minutes. The culture sample was removed of the supernatant liquid to harvest cells, which were suspended in a solution for cell lysis (50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, 300 mM NaCl, pH 8) and destroyed with an ultrasonic pulverizer.

Example 3-1

Investigation of Cytoplasmic Expression

The destroyed cell including a cytoplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase from Neisseria gonorrhoeae was divided into a whole cell fraction (T) and its soluble fraction (S) and insoluble fraction (IS) and then subjected to SDS-PAGE and Western Blot analyses. As shown in FIG. 2, the analysis results revealed that the recombinant carbonic anhydrase was highly expressed in Escherichia coli with a molecular weight of about 25 kDa, which approximated the theoretical molecular weight of the carbonic anhydrase, 25.3 kDa. It was also revealed that the expressed protein was mostly folded into a native structure and expressed as the soluble fraction (lane S) having an activity.

The destroyed cell (SCA) including a cytoplasmic expression vector of a carbonic anhydrase from Synechocystis was divided into a soluble fraction (S) and an insoluble fraction (IS) and then subjected to Western Blot analysis. As shown in FIG. 3, the recombinant carbonic anhydrase had a molecular weight of about 34 kDa approximating the theoretical molecular weight of the carbonic anhydrase. The protein was mostly expressed as the soluble fraction (lane S).

The destroyed cell (ECA) including a cytoplasmic expression vector of a carbonic anhydrase from Escherichia coli was divided into a whole cell fraction (T), a soluble fraction (S), and an insoluble fraction (IS) and then subjected to Western Blot analysis. As shown in FIG. 4, the recombinant carbonic anhydrase had a molecular weight of about 23 kDa approximating the theoretical molecular weight of the carbonic anhydrase. But, the protein was mostly expressed as the insoluble fraction (lane IS).

Example 3-2

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Investigation of Periplasmic Expression

The destroyed cell including a periplasmic expression vec-65 tor for a carbonic anhydrase from Neisseria gonorrhoeae was divided into a whole cell fraction (T), a cell lysate (CL), a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), and a periplas-

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mic fraction (PP) and then subjected to Western Blot analysis. To obtain a periplasmic fraction, the cell lysate was centrifugally separately at 4,000 rpm for 10 minutes, removed of the supernatant liquid, suspended with a TEX buffer (50 mM tris, 3 mM EDTA, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 8.0) and then stirred for one hour. Another centrifugal separation at 4,000 rpm for 10 more minutes turned the supernatant liquid into the periplasmic fraction (PP).

As shown in FIG. 5, the recombinant carbonic anhydrase thus produced had a molecular weight which approximated both the theoretical molecular weights of a carbonic anhydrase expressed with a signal sequence (28 kDa) and a carbonic anhydrase expressed without a signal sequence (25.3 kDa). Further, a band detection in the periplasmic fraction showed that the recombinant carbonic anhydrase thus produced was successfully secreted into the periplasmic space (lane PP).

The destroyed cell (TSCA) including a periplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase from *Synechocystis* was 20 divided into a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), and a periplasmic fraction (PP) and then subjected to Western Blot analysis. As shown in FIG. 3, the recombinant carbonic anhydrase thus produced was not efficiently secreted into the periplasmic space.

The destroyed cell (TECA) including a periplasmic expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase from *Escherichia coli* was divided into a whole cell fraction (T), a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), and a periplasmic fraction (PP) and then subjected to Western Blot analysis. As shown in FIG. 4, the recombinant carbonic anhydrase thus produced was secreted in large quantity into the periplasmic space (lane PP).

Example 3-3

Investigation of Cell Surface Expression

The destroyed cell including a cell surface expression vector for a carbonic anhydrase derived *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* was divided into a cell lysate (CL), a soluble fraction (S), an insoluble fraction (IS), and a cytoplasmic fraction (CP), and further into a cytoplasmic fraction and a cell membrane fraction in order to investigate the expression in a cell membrane fraction and the cell membrane fraction was conducted as follows. The cultured cell was harvested after centrifugal separation, washed with PBS (130 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 10 mM Na $_2$ HPO $_4$, 1.7 mM KH $_2$ PO $_4$) and then subjected to centrifugal separation at 9,000 rpm for 30 minutes.

With the supernatant liquid discarded, a solution containing $10\,\mu\text{g/ml}$ of $1\,\text{mM}$ EDTA in PBS was added to the cultured cell, which was stood for 2-hour reaction and then crushed with an ultrasonic pulverizer. The cell lysate thus obtained was centrifugally separated with an ultracentrifuge at 39,000 rpm for one hour to give a whole cell membrane fraction (TM) as the sediment and a cytoplasmic fraction (CP) as the supernatant

As shown in FIG. **6**, a protein band detected turned out to have a molecular weight of about 55 kDa, which was closely equivalent to the sum of the theoretical molecular weights of INPNC (25 kDa) and carbonic anhydrase (25.3 kDa) as expressed together, demonstrating the expression of the 65 recombinant carbonic anhydrase in the cell surface (land TM). In fact, it has been reported that the protein expressed

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together with INPNC appeared to have a greater molecular weight than theoretically calculated (J. Biotechnol., vol. 118 (4), pp. 339-470).

Example 4

Purification of Carbonic Anhydrase Expressed in Cytoplasm

The soluble fraction of the whole cell biocatalyst from *Escherichia coli* that was prepared in Example 3-1 and proved out to express carbonic anhydrase in cytoplasm was subjected to nickel column chromatography to isolate and purify a protein. More specifically, a soluble fraction of protein was poured into a column filled with a nickel resin, so the column absorbed the protein. Then a wash buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, 300 mM NaCl, 40 mM imidazole, pH 8.0) was used to wash away the protein not bound to the column. The protein was eluted from the column with a 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, 300 mM NaCl, and 250 mM imidazole (pH 8.0). The purified solution was then dialyzed using 100 mM tris-sulfate (pH 7.6) to eliminate the salts.

FIG. 7 shows the results of (A) SDS-PAGE analysis and (B) Western Blot analysis for the purified protein (P), the whole cell fraction (W), and the soluble fraction (S). As can be seen from FIG. 7, the isolation and purification yielded the recombinant carbonic anhydrase with a high purity of 99% or greater (land P). Further, the produced amount of the carbonic anhydrase protein was 10.6.2 mg/L, which was about 70% of the total amount of the protein (1.51.7 mg/L), and the carbonic anhydrase protein was purified to give 66.7 mg/l of pure carbonic anhydrase with the purification yield of 62.8%.

Example 5

Measurement of Activity on Hydration of Carbon Dioxide Using Isolated/Purified Carbonic Anhydrase and Recombinant Whole Cell Biocatalyst

The activity on the hydration of carbon dioxide was measured in the case of using the protein (NCA) purified in Example 4, or the soluble fraction (S) and the whole cell (W) of the *Escherichia coli* whole cell biocatalyst of Example 3 where a carbonic anhydrase was expressed in cytoplasm. The positive control was commercial bovine carbonic anhydrase (BCA) extracted from bovine serum, and the negative control was bovine serum albumin (BSA) inactive on the hydration of carbon dioxide. For the measurement of activity, each fraction with a 20 mM tris-sulfate buffer (pH 8.3) and a CO2-saturated $\rm H_2O$ solution was investigated in regard to the required time to reduce the pH value from 8.0 to 7.0. The faster drop of the pH value indicates the higher CO2 capturing activity.

As shown in FIG. **8**, the purified carbonic anhydrase (NCA; \sim 2,200 U/mg) had the CO₂ capturing activity that was about 71% of the activity of the BCA (3,090 U/mg). Further, the non-purified fractions, that is, the solution fraction (S; \sim 920 U/mg) and the whole cell (W; \sim 730 U/mg) also had a high activity on the hydration of carbon dioxide.

Example 6

Precipitation of Calcium Carbonate Using Calcium Ion

Using a 200 mM tris-sulfate buffer (pH 10.5) and a 100 mM ${\rm CaCl_2}$ solution as a source of calcium ions, the precipi-

tation of calcium carbonate was induced in the negative control (BSA) and the positive control (BCA) of Example 5, three samples of cytoplasmic expression cells (i.e., purified carbonic anhydrase, solution fraction, and whole cell), and the periplasmic expression whole cell. More specifically, the buffer and the CaCl $_2$ solution (each 20 mL) were mixed with each sample. Under agitation, ${\rm CO}_2$ gas was injected into the mixture at a defined flow rate to investigate the precipitation behavior.

FIG. 9 shows a quantitative comparison of precipitate powders prepared by filtering the precipitates produced 2 minutes after the supply of CO_2 gas through a 0.2 μm membrane filter and drying at 80° C. for about 30 minutes. Due to the function of the carbonic anhydrase, the precipitation as well as the catalyzation on hydration of carbon dioxide was accelerated in the BCA, the purified fraction, the solution fraction, and the cytoplasmic expression whole cell other than the BSA. The precipitate obtained from each sample was dried to yield calcium carbonate powder in large quantity.

Using a 200 mM tris-Cl buffer (pH 10.8) and a 500 mM CaCl₂ solution as a source of calcium ions, the precipitation of calcium carbonate was induced in the three samples of whole cells (i.e., the negative control, the cytoplasmic expression whole cell, and the periplasmic expression whole cell, and the periplasmic expression whole cell). 25 The negative control whole cell was *Escherichia coli* cells containing a pET22(+) vector alone. More specifically, the buffer (23 mL) and the CaCl₂ solution (6 mL) were mixed with each whole cell. Under agitation, CO₂ gas was injected into the mixture at a defined flow rate to investigate the ³⁰ precipitation behavior.

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FIG. 10 shows a quantitative comparison of precipitate powders prepared by filtering the precipitates produced one minute after the supply of CO_2 gas through a 0.2 μm membrane filter and drying at 80° C. for about 30 minutes. As a result, the periplasmic expression whole cell yielded calcium carbonate powder about 6.3 times as much as the negative control and about 2.6 times as much as the cytoplasmic expression whole cell. Accordingly, the periplasmic expression, which reduces inhibition of material transfer by the cell membranes, can be an effective means for using the whole cell as a biocatalyst.

Example 7

Identification of Calcium Carbonate

Each powder obtained in Example 6 was identified as calcium carbonate crystals according to X-ray diffraction and SEM analyses. According to the X-ray diffraction peak patterns as shown in FIG. 11, the precipitate was calcium carbonate crystals consisting of calcite and vaterite together. The carbonic anhydrase of the positive control (BCA), the purified carbonic anhydrase, the soluble fraction, and the whole cell accelerated the transition of vaterite into calcite as well as precipitation. The negative control (BSA) having no enzymatic activity appeared to have little transition of vaterite into calcite due to retarded precipitation. As shown in FIG. 12, the precipitate was identified as calcium carbonate crystals with co-existence of parallelepiped calcite and spherical vaterite according to SEM analysis. Also, the use of the carbonic anhydrase accelerated the transition of vaterite into calcite as well as precipitation.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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Pro Cys Thr Glu Gly Val Ser Trp Leu Val Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asp His 225 230 235 240										
Ile Asp Gln Ala Gln Ala Glu Lys Phe Thr Arg Ala Val Gly Ser Glu 245 250 255										
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21 22

ctgac	cac	gc c	gee	gtgca	ac aç	gagg	gegta	a tca	atggt	tgg	tgti	gaaa	aac 1	ttatç	gaccac
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Arg T	'yr	Trp 35	Gln	Ser	Thr	Arg	Arg 40	His	Glu	Asn	Gly	Leu 45	Val	Gly	Leu
Leu T	rp (Gly	Ala	Gly	Thr	Ser 55	Ala	Phe	Leu	Ser	Val 60	His	Ala	Asp	Ala
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Glu P	ro '	Gly	Met	Val 85	Lys	Phe	Pro	Arg	Ala 90	Glu	Val	Val	His	Val 95	Gly
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Ala S		Thr 115	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr	Ser 120	Thr	Ser	Thr	Leu	Thr 125	Pro	Met	Pro
Thr A	la .30	Ile	Pro	Thr	Pro	Met 135	Pro	Ala	Val	Ala	Ser 140	Val	Thr	Leu	Pro
Val A 145	la	Glu	Gln	Ala	Arg 150	His	Glu	Val	Phe	Asp 155	Val	Ala	Ser	Val	Ser 160
Ala A	la.	Ala	Ala	Pro 165	Val	Asn	Thr	Leu	Pro 170	Val	Thr	Thr	Pro	Gln 175	Asn
Leu G	ln '	Thr	Arg 180	Ser	Arg	Leu	Trp	Asp 185	Gly	Lys	Arg	Tyr	Arg 190	Gln	Leu
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Val A	sn (Glu	Asp	Asp	Asp	Ile 215	Val	Asp	Lys	Pro	Asp 220	Glu	Asp	Asp	Aap
Trp I 225	le	Glu	Val	His	Gly 230	Asn	His	Thr	His	Trp 235	Gly	Tyr	Thr	Gly	His 240
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Gly L		Leu 275	Pro	Ala	Ile	Lys	Val 280	Asn	Tyr	Lys	Pro	Ser 285	Met	Val	Asp
Val G	lu .	Asn	Asn	Gly	His	Thr 295	Ile	Gln	Val	Asn	Tyr 300	Pro	Glu	Gly	Gly

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Glu Ala His Phe Val His Leu Asp Glu Asn Lys Gln Pro Leu Val Leu 340 345 350
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Phe Asp Ala Ser Thr Leu Leu Pro Lys Arg Leu Lys Tyr Tyr Arg Phe 385 390 395 400
Ala Gly Ser Leu Thr Thr Pro Pro Cys Thr Glu Gly Val Ser Trp Leu 405 410 415
Val Leu Lys Thr Tyr Asp His Ile Asp Gln Ala Gln Ala Glu Lys Phe 420 425 430
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	ro Gln Val Phe 20	Asn Asp Thr Met 25	Glu Gly Trp Asn Ser 30	
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His Gly Gln H	is Pro Arg Ile 70	Leu Phe Ile Cys 75	Cys Ser Asp Ser Arg 80	
Val Asp Pro A	sn Leu Ile Thr 85	Gln Ser Glu Val 90	Gly Asp Leu Phe Val 95	
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	ly Glu Asp Leu 80	Ile Glu Val Ala 185	Val Ala Glu Asn Ile 190	
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<223 > OTHER INFORMATION: carbonic anhydrase (cytoplasmic expression)
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LUUÇ	jacio	<u>9</u>	199 L	_J yac (JU 08	aatti	-aat(acc	Judal	Jugg	aayi	-999	-ya (Jergi	ttgtt	420

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Val Gl	u Tyr	Ala	Val 85	Ala	Ala	Leu	Arg	Val 90	Ser	Asp	Ile	Val	Ile 95	CAa	
Gly Hi	s Ser	Asn 100	Cys	Gly	Ala	Met	Thr 105	Ala	Ile	Ala	Ser	Cys 110	Gln	CAa	
Met As	р Нія 115		Pro	Ala	Val	Ser 120	His	Trp	Leu	Arg	Tyr 125	Ala	Asp	Ser	
Ala Ar 13		. Val	Asn	Glu	Ala 135	Arg	Pro	His	Ser	Asp 140	Leu	Pro	Ser	Lys	
Ala Al 145	a Ala	Met	Val	Arg 150	Glu	Asn	Val	Ile	Ala 155	Gln	Leu	Ala	Asn	Leu 160	
Gln Th	r His	Pro	Ser 165	Val	Arg	Leu	Ala	Leu 170	Glu	Glu	Gly	Gly	Ser 175	Leu	
His Gl	y Trp	Val 180	Tyr	Asp	Ile	Glu	Ser 185	Gly	Ser	Ile	Ala	Ala 190		Asp	
Gly Al	a Thr 195		Gln	Phe	Val	Pro 200	Leu	Ala	Ala	Asn	Pro 205	Arg	Val	Cys	
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                                2.5
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Ala Leu Phe Lys Gln Leu Ala Thr Gln Gln Ser Pro Arg Thr Leu Phe
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Ile Ser Cys Ser Asp Ser Arg Leu Val Pro Glu Leu Val Thr Gln Arg
Glu Pro Gly Asp Leu Phe Val Ile Arg Asn Ala Gly Asn Ile Val Pro
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Val Ala Ala Leu Arg Val Ser Asp Ile Val Ile Cys Gly His Ser Asn
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    130
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145
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Val Arg Glu Asn Val Ile Ala Gln Leu Ala Asn Leu Gln Thr His Pro
Ser Val Arg Leu Ala Leu Glu Glu Gly Gly Ser Leu His Gly Trp Val
Tyr Asp Ile Glu Ser Gly Ser Ile Ala Ala Phe Asp Gly Ala Thr Arg
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gtttctgctt cggtggagta tgccgtcgct gcgcttcggg tatctgacat tgtgatttgt
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The invention claimed is:

1. A composition for capturing carbon dioxide, the composition comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of:

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- an isolated host cell transformed with a vector comprising a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a recombinant carbonic anhydrase;
- a cell lysate of the isolated host cell, or a fraction thereof; $_{\rm 45}$ and
- a carbonic anhydrase isolated from the isolated host cell, wherein the carbonic anhydrase has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.
- 2. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isolated host cell has an expression of carbonic anhydrase in periplasmic space.

 or a bicarbonate comprising:

 (a) preparing the carbon dispersional claimed in claim 1; and
- 3. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fraction of the cell lysate includes an isolated host cell fraction, a soluble fraction, an insoluble fraction, or a periplasmic fraction of the cell lysate.
- **4**. The composition as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the carbonic anhydrase is obtained from *Neisseria gonorrhoea*.
- **5**. The composition as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the carbonic anhydrase has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.
- **6**. The composition as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the isolated host cell is *Escherichia coli*.
- 7. A composition for converting carbon dioxide to a carbonate or a bicarbonate, the composition comprising:

the composition as claimed in claim 1; and a metal cation.

8. The composition as claimed in claim **7**, wherein the metal cation is Na+, Ca2+, Fe2+, Mn2+, Sr2+, Ca2+, Ba2+, Zn2+, or Pb2+; or a nitrate, hydrochloride, hydrate or solution thereof.

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- 9. The composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the carbonate is sodium carbonate, calcium carbonate, iron carbonate, manganese carbonate, strontium carbonate, barium carbonate, zinc carbonate, or lead carbonate.
- 10. A method for capturing carbon dioxide comprising: preparing the carbon dioxide capturing composition as claimed in claim 1; and
- feeding carbon dioxide into the carbon dioxide capturing composition.
- 11. A method for converting carbon dioxide to a carbonate or a bicarbonate comprising:
 - (a) preparing the carbon dioxide capturing composition as claimed in claim 1; and
 - (b) feeding a metal cation and carbon dioxide into the carbon dioxide capturing composition.
- 12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step (b) of feeing a metal cation and carbon dioxide into the carbon dioxide capturing composition comprises:

feeding a metal cation and carbon dioxide in sequence, feeding carbon dioxide and a metal cation in sequence, or feeding a metal cation and carbon dioxide at once.

- 13. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the metal cation is Na^+ , Ca^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Sr^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , or Pb^{2+} ; or a nitrate, hydrochloride, hydrate or solution thereof.
- 14. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the carbonate is sodium carbonate, calcium carbonate, iron carbonate, manganese carbonate, strontium carbonate, barium carbonate, zinc carbonate, or lead carbonate.

* * * * *